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Three who could slip into Jeane's shoes

In a perfect world, Congress would vote unanimously to make Jean-Francois Revel an honorary American citizen, enabling President Reagan to appoint this brilliant French philosopher and political analyst our ambassador to the United Nations as a worthy successor to Jeane J. Kirkpatrick.

His writings have become polemical classics in the finest Voltairean tradition. His latest volume warns of the dismal future ahead for the Western democracies because of their ineptitude in dealing with the Soviet Union and its intellectual allies.

But this, alas, is an imperfect world and, therefore, we must turn to those of our own who could do the job at the U.N. as brilliantly as Mrs. Kirkpatrick has for the past four years.

There are three I would like to suggest to President Reagan as possible successors — three distinguished Americans who have demonstrated by their records of public service and as private citizens that they understand this dangerous world and what makes it so dangerous. I do not hesitate to use the blunt, descriptive noun which describes their politics. They are hard-liners in the Reagan tradition.

The three I propose for presidential consideration are, in alphabetical order, Anne Armstrong,

Arnold Beichman, visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution, is author of The 'Other' State Department, a history of the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

Glenn Campbell, and Frank Shakespeare. A brief career description of each, in reverse order:

Frank Shakespeare has been president of RKO General for a decade, after a long career with CBS-TV and Westinghouse. Between those jobs, he served brilliantly from 1969 to 1973 as director of the U.S. Information Agency. He now is chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting, which runs Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the domestic truth-telling news service for the Soviet and Eastern Bloc peoples.

In discussing Dr. Glenn Campbell as a possible U.N. ambassador, I must, as they say in the British House of Commons, first declare my interest. I am a stipendiary of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University over which Dr. Campbell has presided since 1960. However, my being at Hoover has enabled me to watch him in action. He has helped make this research organization and library one of the most important scholarship and public policy centers in the world because of its high academic standards. He is also chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Oversight Board, which means he knows where the bodies are buried.

A third possible appointee is Mrs. Anne Armstrong, whose long diplomatic and political experience has been capped by her chairmanship of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which also monitors the Central Intelligence

Agency. Mrs. Armstrong was an effective ambassador to Great Britain during the Ford administration. She is an executive at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies, where she is also professorial lecturer in diplomacy.

Mr. Reagan's designee will have his work cut out, because the United States has embarked upon a serious re-examination of the relationship between national interest and continued membership in the international system of organizations. We have withdrawn from UNESCO and have just informed the World Court that the United States regards the court's assumption of jurisdiction on Nicaragua as an intrusion.

It also should be remembered that Mrs. Kirkpatrick on several occasions has told the U.N. General Assembly that if that organization moved to expel Israel, American withdrawal from the United Nations inevitably would follow. More and more, the serious work of peace-keeping is being conducted outside the United Nations, between the U.S.S.R. and its allies on one side and the United States and its NATO allies on the other. Such issues as Soviet aggression in Afghanistan or Soviet violations of human rights are no longer attended to at the United Nations. Even the five-year war between Iran and Iraq is ignored there.

If the United Nations is being downgraded by the U.S. foreign policy establishment as an important institution, why should anybody want the job as ambassador?

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Until there is American withdrawal from the U.N., there is a national interest to protect. The calumny which is heaped upon the United States by Third World countries and the Soviet bloc demands responses by the United States simply because totalitarian lies are weapons which must be countered by democratic truth.

In addition, the U.N. General Assembly and its committees can take certain actions against the interests of freedom-loving countries.

The post of chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations carries with it membership in the Cabinet and, therefore, direct access to the president. The U.N. ambassador was originally granted Cabinet status by President Eisenhower. That status has continued, making the U.N. ambassador second to the Secretary of State in the bureaucratic hierarchy. Presidential appointees to this position have been of the caliber of Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg, Adlai Stevenson, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose incumbency was one of the glories of American diplomacy, even though he eventually was fired by President Ford at the instigation of then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Now there are reports that the State Department is seeking to abolish the Cabinet status of the U.N. ambassador and to turn the position over to a State Department career diplomat, one who would follow instructions to the letter. If Secretary of State Shultz were successful in abolishing Cabinet status for this still prestigious and influential post, it would be an indication that the anti-Americanism rampant among many of the U.N. member countries is to be treated as little more than temper tantrums by unruly and ungrateful children.

And if for any reason, my three nominees do not suit, I'd recommend a fourth candidate - Laurence Silberman, diplomat, banker, and trial lawyer par excellence. Perhaps, even better than scholar and polemicist, a trial lawyer might be an excellent choice for the job.